

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 OIC-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: INFORMAL MEETING OF GROUP ON PREFERENCES

OCT. 29-30

1. INFORMAL MEETING CHAIRED BY PREFERENCES GROUP CHAIRMAN WINTERMANS WAS ATTENDED BY EC COMMISSION, US, JAPAN, SWEDEN, AUSTRIA AND FLEETINGLY BY CANADA AND AUSTRALIA. COMMISSION REP, TRAN, WAS ONLY ONE ACCOMPANIED BY EXPERTS, AND MEETING CONSISTED TO LARGE EXTENT OF MONOLOGUE BY EC.

2. GROUP AGREED SECRETARIAT'S PAPER (TC/GP/47) WAS GOOD BASIS FOR DISCUSSION OF QUESTION OF ANALYSES OF PREFERENCE SYSTEMS AT DECEMBER MEETING OF GP. SECRETARIAT WILL DO BRIEF SUMMARY OF COMMENTS MADE ON THIS PAPER TO BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH IT TO FULL MEETING OF GROUP.

3. COMMISSION REP PRESENTED NUMBER OF INTERESTING STATISTICS ON TRADE FLOWS AND UTILIZATION RATES UNDER EC GSP. HE GAVE TOTAL IMPORTS UNDER SYSTEM OVER 1971-75 AS 6167

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MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT OF WHICH 942 MILLION IN AGRICUL-

TURAL SECTOR. UTILIZATION RATE FOR 1974 WAS 66 PERCENT OVERALL, RANGING FROM 16 PERCENT FOR CECA PRODUCTS UNDER TARIFF QUOTAS, 46 PERCENT FOR TEXTILES UNDER MONITORED CEILINGS, TO 114 PERCENT FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. DETAILED TABLE IS BEING POUCHED TO GOLDMAN EB/GCP.

4. EC COMMENTS ON PAPER WERE ESSENTIALLY AS FOLLOWS:

A) IMPORTANT THING IS FOR EACH COUNTRY TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE DATA FOR EACH PRODUCT ON GSP IMPORTS, NON-GSP IMPORTS FROM LDC'S, AND IMPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES; B) FOR SECTORAL STUDIES PRODUCTS SHOULD BE GROUPED IN 3 CATEGORIES, DEPENDING ON WHETHER LDC'S ARE MAJOR, IMPORTANT, OR MARGINAL SUPPLIES.

5. ON A MORE GENERAL PLANE TRAN SAID EC SAW NEED TO DEVELOP COMMON DONOR POINT OF VIEW ON TICKLISH GSP QUESTIONS LIKE BENEFICIARY LISTS, DIFFERENTIATION OF BENEFICIARIES, AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTED OF THEM. RE DIFFERENTIATION QUESTION, HE SAID EC IS WORKING ON OBJECTIVE CRITERIA TO IDENTIFY "EXCESSIVE UTILIZATION" OF ITS GSP BY SOME BENEFICIARIES.

6. CHAIRMAN WINTERMANS SAID HE WISHES TO HAVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION AT DECEMBER GP MEETING ON STANCE WHICH OECD SHOULD TAKE ON QUESTION OF "EROSION" OF GSP AS RESULT OF MTN.  
KATZ

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